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AUTHOR:

**SCOTTISH CENTRAL
BOARD FOR...**

TITLE:

**STATEMENT RELATIVE
TO CHURCH...**

PLACE:

EDINBURGH

DATE:

1835

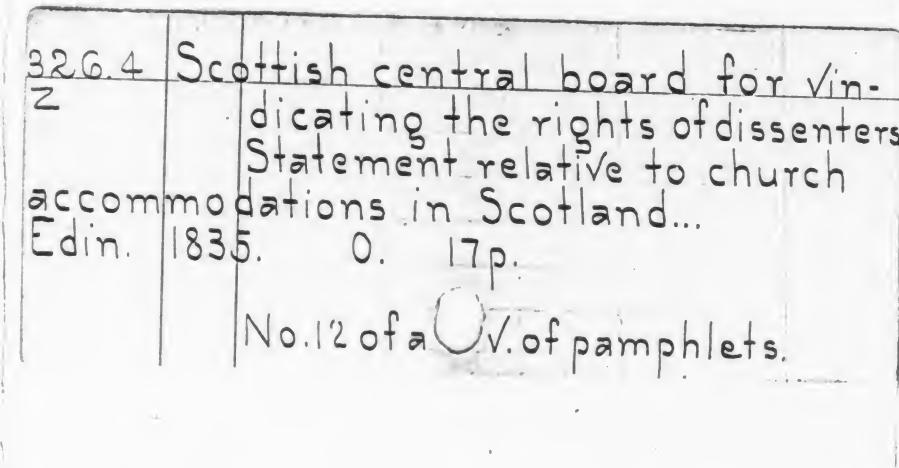
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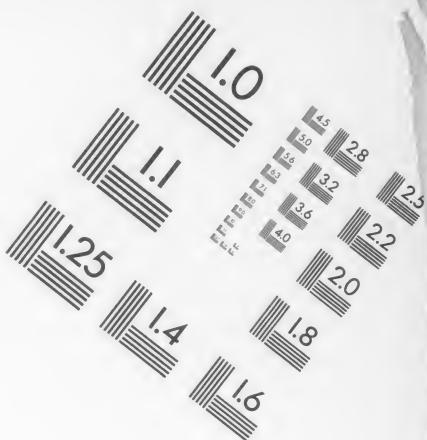
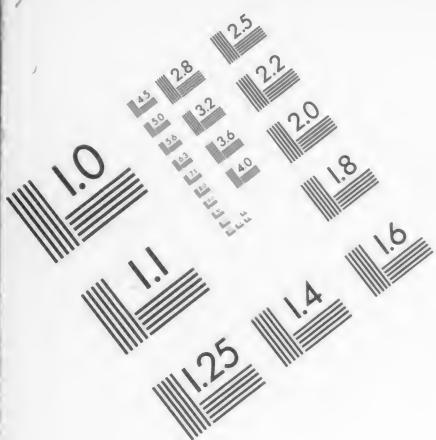


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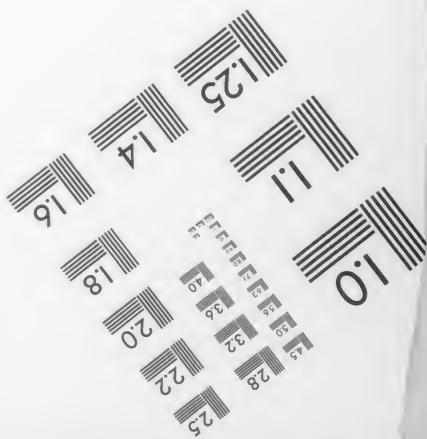
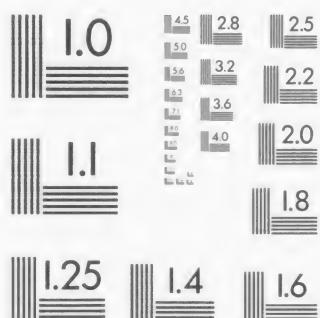
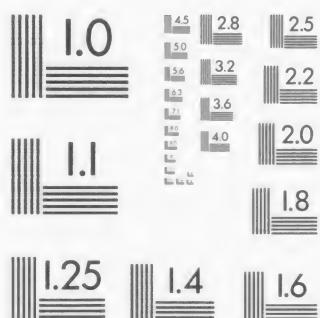
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STATEMENT

RELATIVE TO

CHURCH ACCOMMODATION In Scotland;

IN ANSWER TO

THE REPRESENTATIONS IN THE CIRCULAR OF THE
MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, &c.

BY THE

SCOTTISH CENTRAL BOARD

FOR VINDICATING THE RIGHTS OF DISSENTERS.

EDINBURGH:

JOHN WARDLAW, WEST REGISTER STREET.

M D C C C X X V.

THE SCOTTISH CENTRAL BOARD was instituted at a meeting of Gentlemen from the principal towns and districts in the country, assembled in Edinburgh on the 17th December last, "in order to vindicate and secure the civil and religious rights of Dissenters;" and, viewing the applications now making to Parliament, for a grant from the public money, towards Erecting and Endowing new Churches, in connexion with the Establishment, as an infringement of these rights, and as calculated to increase the grievances under which Dissenters labour, the Board has felt itself called upon to draw up and publish the following Statement, which it respectfully submits to the consideration of the public.

DUNCAN M'LAREN, *Chairman.*
JAMES PEDDIE, junr. *Secretary.*

EDINBURGH,
24th March 1835.

Andrew Jack & Co. Printers.

STATEMENT, &c.

It is pretty generally known, that a strong effort is making at present, by the High Church party, to obtain a large grant from the public funds, to be employed in the erection and endowment of new churches in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and in the endowing of those churches, lately called Chapels of Ease, which have hitherto been supported by private endowment, or on the Voluntary principle. From the reference made to the subject in the King's speech at the opening of Parliament, there is cause to apprehend, that the present government have been induced to lend a favourable ear to the application. Accordingly, the zeal of the party has been quickened, and petitions, it is understood, have been prepared in many parishes in support of the grant, which have been carried about from door to door in quest of subscriptions; and these have, in too many instances, it is feared, been attached to them, without the parties being aware of their object, and certainly in total ignorance of the real merits of the case.

These petitions have had their origin in a circular letter, by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Convener of the Committee on Church Accommodation, and Convener of the Committee on Endowments, addressed to the different parishes, urgently calling for such demonstrations from the friends of the church. This circular, besides containing general allegations of a great deficiency of church accommodation throughout the country, refers to particular parishes and districts as specimens; and has appended to it tables, to shew the great "destitution" prevailing in these places. The tables, however, are framed on the most deceptive and untenable principles. They omit entirely the whole accommodation provided by Dissenters, and conceal many other circumstances of importance; and if they are believed to contain a fair representation of the want of church accommodation, it is no wonder that the originators of the scheme should have been successful in obtaining signatures to their petitions.

The principle on which the petitions are grounded, seems to be the supposed duty of the government to provide church accommodation connected with the Establishment, sufficient for the whole population, without regard to their religious sentiments, or

the demand existing for it; and the effect of its application, either in England or Scotland, would be, not only to augment the hardships felt and complained of by Dissenters, and insult their religious feelings, but besides, very considerably to increase the public burdens. If this principle were acted upon, it is difficult to say how many additional churches would be required throughout the kingdom. In Scotland alone, 800 at least, would, on a moderate calculation, be necessary, there being that number of dissenting churches; and if each of them were to cost the country *half as much* as each of the 208 churches built or repaired by the church commissioners in England, within the last fourteen years (on which £1,500,000 have been expended), a parliamentary grant of nearly of £3,000,000 would be required for the purpose. Allowing an endowment of £200 a-year to each of the ministers to be appointed, an additional annual grant of £160,000 would be necessary; equal, at 4 per cent., to a capital of £4,000,000,—making in whole nearly *seven millions*.

The Board of Scottish Dissenters have therefore considered it their duty to make some investigation into the alleged instances of want of accommodation, brought forward in illustration of the general allegations on the subject, and beg to submit the following Statement to the consideration of both Churchmen and Dissenters, as the result of their enquiries.

In the Circular, two different tables are given; the first of which is entitled, "A few specimens of the state of Church Accommodation, in and about Edinburgh."

It is as follows:

	Population.	Seats taken in all places of worship, of all denominations	Proportion of Seat-holders to the people.
Water of Leith and Dean village; two adjacent localities, without the royalty	1287	150	Less than 1 in 8
A Plebeian District in the Parish of South Leith	480	52	Less than 1 in 9
In the Tolbooth parish of Edinburgh, proper	3256	450	Less than 1 in 7
A District in the Grassmarket	417	19	1 in 22
A larger Section of the same	1348	89	Less than 1 in 13
An Eastern and better part of the Cowgate	420	74	Less than 1 in 5
A Westerly and worse part of ditto	865	96	1 in 9
Another District of the Cowgate	624	68	Less than 1 in 9
A fourth District of ditto	473	76	Less than 1 in 6
A District of the New North Parish	620	40	Less than 1 in 15
A District of the Canongate	290	30	Less than 1 in 9
A District of Leith Wynd Parish	131	10	Less than 1 in 13
Total	10,214	1154	1 to between 8 or 9

On this table the following remarks occur:

1st. It has no relation to the question. Supposing its statements to be accurate, (which, in consequence of the districts not being distinctly pointed out, we have no means of ascertaining,) it merely shews the number of seats taken by persons residing in the districts referred to; and instead of being called "a statement of Church

Accommodation;" it ought to have been entitled, "a statement of Church Attendance." These two subjects, it is evident, are totally distinct. The attendance on public worship may be very small, even where ample accommodation for the worshippers is provided; and no inference can legitimately be drawn that there is a deficiency of the latter, from the circumstance, that a very small number of the population are found to have seats taken. If such an inference were correct, immediately on its being found that in some parishes of Ireland only 10 or 20 attended the parish churches, forthwith others ought to be erected as a cure for the evil.

2dly, It takes the whole population, man, woman, and child, healthy and infirm, and contrasts the seats taken with the gross number. In this way the proportion who have no sittings is more than doubled. The result of the table, it will be seen, is, that those who have sittings are less than one in eight and a half, whereas had the seats taken been contrasted with that part of the population who might be expected to have sittings, (viz. two-thirds of the examinable persons,) the results would have stood thus:

Population.	Seats required for two-thirds of examinable persons.	Seats taken.	Deficiency.
10,214.	4728.	1154.	3574.

Thus, in place of a deficiency of eighth-ninths, as stated in the table, there is only a deficiency, *in the extreme cases selected for the purpose*, supposing them to be correctly given, of three-fourths.

3d. The tables only profess to shew the seats taken; but it is well known, that many are in the habit of regularly attending church who have no seats taken. This is especially the case in Dissenting churches, in some of which it is not the practice to let sittings; and in others, considerable free accommodation is set apart. Besides, although only one seat be taken, two or three of a family may attend the church more or less regularly, and all be church members.

It will thus be seen, that of the *want of church accommodation*, for establishing which it is brought forward, this table can afford no evidence, and that it is only calculated, if not intended, to mislead. It may shew, when its accuracy is vouched, a great shortcoming on the part of the Established clergy, in the discharge of that department of duty, for which it is contended an Establishment should principally be maintained; and it may serve as an argument for the more active co-operation of christians of all denominations, in the support of home missions; but it leaves the question, whether there is any deficiency of church accommodation, as undetermined as ever. Notwithstanding this, it is most unfairly adduced to create a belief, that the want of a habit of church-going, arises from a want of accommodation; and it is broadly stated, that returns of the same kind, expected from other parts of the country, will shew "an equal *DESTITUTION* in many of our large towns, and over-peopled parishes." It is also made the groundwork of the petitions which are recommended, wherein it is stated,

that "large portions of the poorer classes are living in a state of entire EXCLUSION from all the outward and ordinary means, whereby are communicated the benefits of redemption." That many are living in the neglect of these means, we admit; but that any are excluded, from the want of church accommodation, we positively deny.

In reference, however, to the question of church accommodation in Edinburgh, it is sufficient simply to state the result of accurate tables on the subject, laid before the public last year. The population of Edinburgh, by the last census, is 136,054. The proportion for which accommodation is required, therefore, is 62,988

There is accommodation in the Established churches

and chapels for	30,710
And in Dissenting places of worship, for	37,584
Total accommodation	68,294
Surplus	5,306

It is also important to keep in view, that even if the deficiency in the instances which have been pointed out, were much greater than is alleged, there could be no difficulty in supplying it, without the necessity of erecting new churches. The districts included in the above table, are all, with a single exception, in the parishes of the City, the West Church, and the Canongate. In the city churches, at 20th February 1835, according to an official document published by the Town Council, there were 5,009 unlet seats. In the parishes of the West Church and Canongate, there are besides, 6,500 unlet seats; and in the dissenting churches within the same districts, there are 8,426 unlet seats, making in all, 19,935, out of which, the 3,574 individuals destitute of accommodation, might be supplied, and a surplus would still exist of 16,361. The great proportion of these unlet sittings, are those at the lowest prices, and consequently within the reach of the poorer classes. In the city churches there are 1247 of the unlet seats, from 2s. to 5s.; 1806, from 6s. to 9s.; and 835 from 10s. to 12s. per annum, subject to a deduction in favour of parishioners, of 1s. on all seats of 3s. 4s. and 5s., and of 2s. on all those from 6s. to 12s. and in July 1834, the Town Council resolved, on the recommendation of a committee, that "as it is an object of great importance to encourage church-going habits among the lower classes, if it shall be found that the number of seats set apart for their accommodation, is inadequate to meet the demand, any additional number that may be required, shall be reduced, and set aside for their accommodation." There can be no doubt, that the same feeling to accommodate the poorer classes, exists throughout the kingdom; and that if the Established clergy could induce them to attend the existing churches, seats might be obtained for them at merely nominal prices.

The following is the second Table attached to the Circular:

PARISH or BURGH.	Peebtry.	Popula- tion.	Proportion for whom accommo- dation ought to be made.	Parish Church Accom- modation	Chapel of Ease Acc- commodation.	Deficiency
Par. Burgh of Glasgow	Glasgow	195,000	97,500	14,520	11,810	71,140
Rutherglen	Ditto	5,593	2,751	900	—	1,851
Kirkintilloch.....	Ditto	5,888	2,944	700	—	2,244
Kilsyth.....	Ditto	4,297	2,148	800	—	1,348
Old Machar.....	Aberdeen ...	25,170	12,585	1,530	3,667	7,388
Par. Burgh of Dundee	Dundee.....	45,000	22,500	7,200	3,100	12,200
Dunfermline.....	Dunfermline	17,068	8,534	2,000	836	5,698
Abbotshall	Kirkaldy....	4,206	2,103	700	—	1,403
Hamilton.....	Hamilton	9,513	4,756	800	—	4,200
Old Monkland.....	Ditto	9,650	4,825	900	485	3,440
Bothwell.....	Ditto	5,500	2,750	1,150	—	1,600
Cambusnethan.....	Ditto	3,824	1,912	660	—	1,252
Dalserf.....	Ditto	2,784	1,392	500	—	892
Greenock.....	Greenock....	28,500	14,250	3,300	2,900	8,050
Abbey parish, Paisley	Paisley.....	31,088	15,544	1,636	1,000	12,908
Neilston.....	Ditto	8,046	4,023	950	—	3,073
Kilbarclian.....	Ditto	4,806	2,403	700	—	1,703
Lochwinnoch.....	Ditto	4,515	2,257	1,050	—	1,207
Eastwood	Ditto	6,854	3,427	750	—	2,677
Kilmarnock.....	Irvine.....	18,093	9,046	2,560	—	6,486
Ardrossan.....	Ditto	3,600	1,800	800	—	1,000
Loudon.....	Ditto	3,959	1,979	700	—	1,279
Dundonald.....	Ayr.....	5,500	2,750	1,200	—	1,550
Jedburgh.....	Jedburgh....	5,650	2,825	900	—	1,925
Lesmahago	Lanark.....	6,450	3,225	1,600	—	1,625
Beith.....	Irvine	5,118	2,559	1,251	—	1,305

When added up, the Totals are... 465,582 232,788 49,760 23,828 159,444

Upon this table the following general observations are submitted. 1st. It assumes that the proportion of the population for whom accommodation is necessary is one half, whereas, according to the decision of the Court of Session in the case of Tingwall in 1787, and in subsequent cases, church accommodation for two-thirds of the examinable persons, that is, of those above twelve years of age, is sufficient for the whole; the other third being necessarily absent by age, sickness, the care of the young, and other duties. This proportion, Dr Cleland of Glasgow, an authority whose accuracy will not be called in question by the Church party, has ascertained to be as 100 to 216, or nearly 8 per cent. less than that which has been assumed in the table. The effect of this error is, that instead of church accommodation for 232,788 being necessary in the places mentioned, accommodation for 215,547 is the utmost that the ecclesiastical courts demand, or the civil courts award. This apparently unimportant difference, lessens the alleged deficiency by 17,241.

It will, besides, be noticed, that this proportion proceeds on the supposition, that the whole population above twelve years of age are imbued with church-going habits. But, it will be admitted,

with deep regret, by every philanthropic mind, that in all our large towns there unhappily exists a very large population, composed of the avowedly irreligious, and of all those classes who fill our jails and bridewells, and infest our streets, for whom, to provide church accommodation as the means of reclaiming them from their evil courses, would betray a lamentable degree of ignorance of human nature. By making proper allowance for these classes, the quantity of church accommodation required in all our large towns will be considerably reduced. Again; although the legal quantity of accommodation may be requisite where the population is composed of the ordinary proportions of the wealthy, the middling, and the poorer classes, in places where there is a very large proportion of the lower orders, the same quantity of church accommodation never can be requisite, even for the families of the church-going poor. Taking the usual average of five to a family, it may fairly be assumed, that in a majority of instances two, at least, of the children are too young either to be taken to church or to be left alone; and where the parents are unable to keep servants, it is obvious that even when all the family are in perfect health and disposed to attend, either one of the parents, or the eldest child must always remain at home, to take care of the younger children, and for other necessary duties; and consequently, that since never more than two out of the five can be at church at the same hour, two sittings are all that is required for the family, although three members regularly attend *part* of every Sabbath. Cases of this kind, account for a well known fact, that the number of communicants belonging to one congregation, frequently exceeds the number of sittings in the church. Although, therefore, in the following calculations, it is assumed, that accommodation is necessary for two-thirds of the examinable persons, or for nearly 46 per cent. of the population, it seems apparent, that taking into account the number of openly profane who never attend any place of worship, and the number of the poorer classes, who do not require more than two sittings for their families, accommodation for two-fifths or 40 per cent. of the population, is amply sufficient for all the large towns. To shew, however, the difference which this would produce, we have appended a table,* contrasting the supply with the accommodation, according to this view.

2nd, The table keeps entirely out of view, the accommodation provided by Dissenters of different denominations, and takes up the extravagant position, that whatever may be their religious opinions, accommodation connected with the Establishment, sufficient for the *whole* population, ought to be provided out of the public funds. In consequence of this omission, and by overrating the quantity of church accommodation required, the deficiency is made to appear enormous; for it will be seen from the remarks and table, afterwards given, that in the places which have been selected, while the Establishment has only provided, in both Churches and Chapels of Ease, 113,026; Dissenters, acting on the voluntary system, have provided 141,770 sittings; and it is also of importance to remark, that of the above 141,770 sittings, upwards of 130,000 are provided by evangelical Dissenters, who, it will not be denied, teach the great doctrines of the gospel at least as purely and diligently as the clergy of the Establishment. Un-

* Vide last page.

less, therefore, in soliciting aid from government, the object is entirely sectarian, and with a view to proselyting from the ranks of Dissenters, this large supply cannot be disregarded. Indeed, while the accommodation provided by Dissenters is concealed from view, by being wholly omitted in this table, it seems to be admitted that the grant can only be expected for the supply of places, where, after taking into account the accommodation provided by other religious denominations, there still exists a deficiency. In the extract of a letter quoted from a correspondent, which the circular characterises "as full of judgment and good feeling, and withal so practical in its bearings," it is said, "you come forward in behalf, and in name of the poor among your countrymen, whose souls cannot be fed by the Voluntary system." Again, in one of the petitions, (No. 1.) the argument employed is, that a large proportion of the people do not enjoy the benefit of religious ordinances and pastoral superintendence, in connection with "*any christian communion whatever*"; and in another of them, (No. 5.) it is still more distinctly stated, that, "there is no likelihood of the deficiency being supplied by the spontaneous efforts, either of those who belong to the Establishment, or of those who belong to other denominations." Looking to these admissions, the entire absence of any account of Dissenting places of worship, appears very extraordinary, and hardly consistent with common candour.

3d, The table is equally silent on the subject of unlet sittings, although it is well known, that both in the churches of the Establishment and in those of Dissenters, there is a very large number of empty pews. The state of the Edinburgh churches in this respect, has been already alluded to, and a similar supply of unoccupied room will be found to exist in other places. This circumstance is surely one of importance to be known, when a complaint like the present is made. It is in vain to talk of "destitution" of churches, and of "exclusion" from the means of grace, if, in almost every church to which we can turn, there is unoccupied accommodation. So far however from bringing this into view, it is studiously concealed: and a stranger to the real circumstances would be led to believe, that all the churches were crowded,—that the demand for seats had raised the price of sittings to a great extent,—and that thousands, anxious to enjoy the ministrations of the Gospel, were excluded, from the impossibility of getting access. This omission, taken in connection with the disregard of the Dissenting churches, induces the suspicion, that while zeal for the benefit of the poor is put forward as the great object in view, the real design is, if possible, to extinguish Dissent, or at least to thin the ranks of Dissenters, by holding out the bribe of far cheaper seats in the Established churches, than they can procure in those which are built and maintained by Voluntary exertions.

With these general remarks, we proceed to bring into view the real state of church accommodation in the particular places which are noticed in the second table. It is reasonable to suppose, that the strongest cases of destitution which could be discovered, would be brought forward. If these, therefore, be disproved, the whole case will fall to the ground. We trust we shall be able to convince every unprejudiced mind, that in not one of the twenty-six places which are referred to, does there exist any want of accom-

modation, or at least, such a want as to call for a grant from Government to supply what is lacking in the benevolence or ability of churchmen: and it may be noticed, that in several of the places where the proportion of accommodation is smallest, societies for erecting additional churches on the Voluntary principle, in connection with the Establishment, are in active operation.

In order to condense our remarks, instead of following the order in which the different places are mentioned in the table, it will be necessary to class such of them together as can be disposed of by the same general observations, adding in notes any particular remarks which may be required on the individual case.

The FIRST class, then, will include those places regarding which no other material observation occurs, than to supply the omission, of the accommodation furnished by Dissenters, by bringing it into view. They are as follows:

	Population.	CHURCH ACCOMMODATION.						Surplus.
		In Es-tablish-ment.	Among Dis-sen-ters.	Total.	Legal Accom-modation.	Alleged Deficien-cy.	Deficien-cy.	
Kilsyth.....	4,297	800	800	1,600	1,989	1,348	389	—
Dundee	45,000	10,300	12,120	22,420	20,833	12,200	—	1,587
Dunfermline ..	17,068	2,836	6,337	9,173	7,901	5,698	—	1,272
Bothwell.....	5,500	1,150	1,600	2,750	2,546	1,600	—	204
Cambusnethan	3,824	660	1,800	2,460	1,770	1,252	—	690
Dalserf.....	2,784	500	60	360	1,289	892	729	—
Neilston.....	8,046	950	950	1,900	3,725	3,073	1,825	—
Kilbarchan....	4,806	700	1,730	2,430	2,225	1,703	—	205
Lochwinnoch..	4,515	1,050	700	1,750	2,090	1,207	340	—
Eastwood	6,854	750	1,415	2,165	3,173	2,677	1,008	—
Loudon.....	3,959	700	1,100	1,800	1,833	1,279	33	—
Jedburgh	5,650	950	2,700	3,650	2,616	1,925	—	1,034
Lesmahagow ..	6,450	1,600	1,050	2,650	2,986	1,625	336	—
Beith	5,118	1,254	1,347	2,601	2,369	1,305	—	232
Total...	123,872	24,200	32,709	57,909	57,345	37,784	—	564

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS RELATIVE TO SOME OF THESE PLACES.

Kilsyth.—The Church was built not a great many years ago, and must then have been considered sufficient for the population. There is always sufficient spare room in it.

Dundee.—Besides the above accommodation, the Baptists are building a church to contain 200; and the Roman Catholics, who are numerous, are about to build one for 2000,—1423 sittings are unlet in the Established Churches.

Dunfermline.—1452 sittings are unlet in the Established Churches.

Bothwell.—The Parish Church was built only a few years ago, and was the subject of a pretty expensive litigation before the Court of Session. The presbytery admitted in their pleadings, (although a church for 1600 was at first demanded) "that a church capable of containing 1200 persons may be sufficient." Decree was accordingly given for one of that size, which the Lord Ordinary in his interlocutor, adhered to by the Court, stated, that he held "sufficiently large." Shaw and Dunlop's cases, VI, 47. The Church is not nearly filled.

Dalserf.—The deficiency here is more than supplied by the surplus in the adjoining parish of Cambusnethan. There are upwards of 400 individuals belonging to Dissenting congregations, in the surrounding parishes.

Neilston.—In this parish there are above 2000 Roman Catholics; and on

this account, from the above deficiency of 1825, there ought to be deducted 1000, leaving only a deficiency 825, which may be considered as the population belonging to Dissenters having no places of worship in the parish, who are accommodated in the neighbouring parish of Paisley, where there is a large surplus accommodation.

Lochwinnoch.—The above deficiency of 340, may be accounted for by deducting the Dissenters of different denominations, who attend their own places of worship in other parishes.

Eastwood.—The deficiency is accounted for by the circumstance of there being a great number of Roman Catholics in the parish, besides other Dissenters, belonging to various denominations, who have no places of worship within it, and who attend elsewhere.

Lesmahagow.—There are in the parish upwards of three hundred and fifty individuals, belonging to congregations in Lanark, Douglas, and Strathaven, who regularly attend in these places,—and there is no want of accommodation.

The SECOND class consists of those places, in regard to which, not only the accommodation in Dissenting places of worship has been omitted, but the accommodation in the Established churches has been understated. These are,

PLACES.	Popula-tion.	CHURCH ACCOMMODATION.						Surplus.
		In Es-tablish-ment.	Among Dis-sen-ters.	Total.	Legal Accom-modation.	Alleged Deficien-cy.	Deficien-cy.	
Rutherglen.....	5,503	1,700	850	2,550	2,547	1,851	—	3
Kirkintilloch ...	5,888	900	1,420	2,320	2,726	2,244	406	—
Hamilton.....	9,513	2,000	3,800	5,800	4,404	4,200	—	1,396
Greenock	28,500	6,600	8,930	15,530	13,194	8,050	—	2,336
Kilmarnock	18,093	4,160	5,530	9,690	8,376	6,486	—	1,314
Totals	67,497	15,360	20,530	35,890	31,247	22,831	—	4643

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS RELATIVE TO THESE PLACES.

Rutherglen.—The difference of 800 on the accommodation in the Establishment, arises from a chapel, to contain that number, which is at present building. The Dissenters' chapel mentioned here, is also at present building. 400 sittings are unlet in the parish church.

Kirkintilloch.—The parish Church represented as containing only 700; but it will contain at least 900,—and in a process which depended not long ago regarding it, the accommodation was never stated at less than this amount. In one of the pleadings it is stated, "the church is capable of accommodating from 900 to 1000; allowing each sitter from 17 to 18 inches on the seat boards." The small deficiency of accommodation here may be easily supplied, supposing the churches were all filled (which they are not) by the neighbouring parish church of Cadder, distant about two miles from the town of Kirkintilloch, which affords accommodation for 800, and the congregation seldom exceeds 30; and another church at Chryston, 3 miles to the south, which accommodates 800, and is seldom half filled.

Hamilton.—The church here has two ministers, who were in use to officiate each alternate Sabbath. A new church however has been built to contain 1200 which is omitted in the Assembly's table. Only the area is yet finished, but the church has been opened, and the Presbytery, on the 24th February last, erected it into a separate parish *quoad sacra*. In this place, the second minister will, it is supposed, in future officiate.

Greenock.—The difference in the accommodation in the Establishment is 400,—afforded by a place of worship, which formerly belonged to the Methodists, and is now occupied by a congregation in connection with the Establishment, who have recently called the Rev. John Bonar, as their minister, 'until they build another for themselves.'

Kilmarnock.—The difference here arises from the omission of a chapel which

is at present building to contain 1600. Besides, it may be mentioned, that at least in one of the parish churches, there are a considerable number of unlet seats, and that the Parish Church of Riccarton, situated on the opposite side of the Irvine, is a large church containing more accommodation than is ever filled, and is nearer to many of the inhabitants than the town churches.

The THIRD class, are parishes which are so situated, in regard to neighbouring parishes, that in order to give a fair view of the church accommodation, they ought not to be separated. It is well known, that in all populous towns or districts, divided into more than one parish, the inhabitants, whether Churchmen or Dissenters, do not and will not confine themselves to the churches in the parish in which they reside. It is, therefore, extremely unfair and deceptive, to single out any one of these, without regard to the accommodation in the others—as the deficiency in the one, may be, and generally is provided for, by a surplus accommodation in the other. Edinburgh affords a striking instance of the justice of this remark. From official documents published by the Town Council, of date 20th February 1835, it appears that, in the 13 city churches, the number of seats let to inhabitants of the city parishes, is 5506. Besides these, there are let to the inhabitants of other parishes *without* the city, 3793 seats, as follows:

To inhabitants of the West Church parish	3382
Ditto ditto Canongate	139
Ditto ditto Leith parishes	250
Ditto ditto Duddingston	22
	3793

Any person who pretended to give an account of the church accommodation, or church attendance of the West Church parish, and at the same time kept out of view the fact, that 3382 seats were let to inhabitants of that parish in the city churches, would be justly chargeable with gross inaccuracy; yet, this is precisely what has been done in the circular referred to. In the table, several parishes have been specified, which are in this manner intimately connected with others, that are not to be found in it, and it is not a little surprising, that it is always the parish that exhibits, when taken by itself, the smallest proportion, which happens to be selected.

The parishes to which this remark applies are, Old Machar, Aberdeen; Abbotshall, Kirkaldy; Old Monkland; Abbey Church, Paisley; Ardrossan; and Dundonald. These will require separate notices.

I. OLD MACHAR.

A great part of this parish lies in New Aberdeen; and in it, says the population return, "are contained the principal additions which have of late years been made to the city or burgh of Aberdeen." From this circumstance, many of the inhabitants in Old Machar, both Churchmen and Dissenters, attend in place of worship, situated in the other parishes of the burgh, and they ought not, therefore, to be disregarded in this enquiry.

	Population.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accommodation.	Surplus.
		Establishment.	Dissenters.	Total.		
Old Machar	25,170	5,197	1,737	6,934	11,653	
Remaining parishes of New Aberdeen.	32,849	10,783	11,883	22,666	15,208	
Together	58,019	15,980	13,620	29,600	26,861	2,739

II. ABBOTSHALL.

It is well known, that this parish lies at the west end of Kirkaldy, the parish church being within the Parliamentary bounds of that burgh. The inhabitants attend the churches and chapels of both parishes indiscriminately, without regard to their local residences.

The accommodation stands thus :

	Population.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accommodation.	Surplus.
		Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.		
Abbotshall	4,206	780	1,150	1,930	1,947	
Kirkaldy.	5,034	1600	2,350	3,950	2,330	
Together	9,240	2380	3,500	5,880	4,277	1,603

This surplus of 1603, might be increased to 2165, by including Dysart, which lies at the east end of Kirkaldy, and where there is a surplus of 562.

III. OLD MONKLAND.

The most populous district in this parish, lies contiguous to the town of Airdrie in New Monkland, where, accordingly, a great number of the parishioners attend worship, and in particular, the Dissenters, who have no place of worship in the parish.

The accommodation stands thus :

	Population.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accommodation.	Deficiency.
		Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.		
Old Monkland	9650	1385	—	1385	4467	
New Monkland	9867	3350*	3010	6360	4568	
Together	19517	4735	3010	7745	9035	1290

And to account for this deficiency, it may be observed, 1st, That

* This includes a chapel at present building, to contain 950.

the parish contains a great many Roman Catholics, who have only a small chapel containing 200; and, 2d, That at Bellshill, a very short distance to the south of Old Monkland, there is a Relief church; and at Tollcross, a little to the west, another Dissenting meeting-house, together containing accommodation for 2200; and that in these churches a considerable number of the parishioners attend.

It may also be noticed, that one-third of the sittings in Old Monkland are generally unoccupied, and that in New Monkland there is abundance of unoccupied accommodation.

IV. ABBEY PARISH OF PAISLEY.

It is unnecessary to say any thing of the unfairness of separating this parish from the other parishes of Paisley.

The accommodation stands thus:

	Population.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accommodation.	Surplus.
		Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.		
Abbey Parish	26006†	3436‡	5800	9236	12039	
Other Parishes	31460	9800§	10400	20200	14565	
Total	57466	13236	16200	29436	26604	2832

It should also be kept in view, that the population contains about 10,000 Roman Catholics, who have only one church accommodating 1000, which is occupied several times successively each Sabbath, by different congregations. There are about 8000 unlet sittings in the different churches.

V. ARDROSSAN.

The town of Saltcoats is divided between this parish and that of Stevenston, 2422 of its population being in the former, and 1378 in the latter. Hence, to give a fair representation of the state of the church accommodation, the two parishes ought to have been taken together, as the churches are occupied indiscriminately by the inhabitants.

The accommodation in both parishes stands thus:

† The population is stated in the circular at 31,088; but the above is the correct statement by last parliamentary census. Allowing it to have considerably increased since 1831, there will still remain a surplus; and it is believed that the accommodation is fully greater than is stated above.

‡ This is 800 more than is allowed for in the circular. The addition arises from a chapel at Nitshill, recently built and ready to be opened, which is omitted in the table.

§ This includes two chapels at present building, to contain 1800.

	Popula- tion.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accom- modation.	Surplus.
		Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.		
Ardrossan	3600	1000*	500	1500	1666	
Stevenston	3544	1200	1400	2600	1640	
Together	7144	2200	1900	4100	3306	794

VI. DUNDONALD.

The parish adjoins that of Irvine, from which a considerable part of it, containing 2500 of the population, was disjoined so late as 1821. A very populous district of it, forms a suburb to the town of Irvine, and is within the Parliamentary bounds of that burgh. The inhabitants of this district being within a mile of the Irvine churches, while they are five miles from Dundonald parish church, regularly attend in the former; and a great many who live further from the town do so likewise, particularly the Dissenters who have no place of worship in the parish. Dundonald and Irvine should therefore be taken together, and the accommodation will stand thus:

	Popula- tion.	Church Accommodation.			Legal Accom- modation.	Surplus.
		Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.		
Dundonald	5,500	1,200	—	1,200	2,546	
Irvine	5,200	2,300	2,650	4,950	2,408	
Together	10,700	3,500	2,650	6,150	4,954	1,196

GLASGOW.

This is the only place which is not included in these different divisions, and it requires a separate notice. In it, the accommodation furnished in the parish churches and chapels of ease, is considerably under-rated. Instead of 14,520 in the parish churches, and 11,840 in the chapels, there is accommodation in the 12 parish churches, for 15,432 And in Chapels of Ease, two or three of which have only recently been opened, for 16,003

Making together 31,435

In ten of the parish churches alone, there were at 30th December last, 2787 unlet sittings, and in the other two, at least 600. As to the unlet sittings in the chapels of ease, we have no accurate information; but in one of them, viz. St John's, erected as a church for the poor not many years ago, there have been for many years,

* The parish church is entered in the circular, as containing 800, but it will easily accommodate 1000.

from 800 to 900 unlet, out of 1329; and another chapel, St George's-in-the-Fields, is said to be in similar circumstances. In all the others there are many unlet seats. But, besides the churches in the Establishment, there is accommodation in 52 Dissenting churches for 46,651, which are not mentioned in the table. Taking these into view, and separating the Roman Catholic from the Protestant population, the total accommodation stands thus:

	Church Accommodation.						
	Population.	Establish- ment.	Dissent- ers.	Total.	Legal Accom- modation.	Surplus.	Defici- ency.
Protestants	160,000	31,435	44,301	75,736	74,073	1,663	—
Rom. Cath.	35,000	—	2,350	2,350	16,204	—	13,854
Total	195,000	31,435	46,651	78,086	90,277	—	12,191

The deficiency is thus only 12,191, instead of 71,440, as represented in the circular; and to account for it, it is sufficient to observe, that the 35,000 Roman Catholics have only two churches, accommodating 2,350, but which, by being filled several times each Sabbath, by successive congregations, in reality accommodate three times the number they are capable of containing at any one time. It is obvious from the above statement, that the only deficiency of church accommodation in Glasgow, is for the Roman Catholic population, and to build Protestant churches for them, would be as absurd, as to build them for the Roman Catholic population of Dublin, or any other town in Ireland.

It must also be kept in view, that in Glasgow, upwards of L.20,000 have been recently subscribed for the erection and endowment of new Chapels of Ease; and arrangements, it is believed, are already made for erecting several during the present year. As soon as these new Chapels are opened, there will be a very large surplus accommodation.

The following table brings into one view, the results of the foregoing remarks.

TABLE OF RESULTS ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL STANDARD OF CHURCH ACCOMMODATION.

PLACES.	Popula- tion.	Church Accommodation.				Legal Accom- modation.	Alleged deficiency.	Apparent Deficiency	Surplus.
		In Es- tablis- ment.	Among Dissent- ers.	Total.					
Glasgow { Protestants	160,000	31,435	44,301	75,736	74,073	71,140	—	—	1663
Rom. Cath.	35,000	—	2,350	2,350	16,204	—	13,854	—	—
Rutherglen	5,503	1,700	850	2,550	2,547	1,851	—	—	3
Kirkintilloch	5,888	900	1,420	2,320	2,726	2,244	406	—	—
Kilsyth	4,297	800	800	1,600	1,989	1,348	389	—	—
{ Old Machar Aberdeen	25,170	5,197	1,737	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other parishes ditto ..	32,849	10,783	11,883	—	29,600	26,861	7,388	—	2739
Dundee	45,000	10,300	12,120	22,420	20,833	12,200	—	—	1587
Dunfermline	17,068	2,836	6,337	9,173	7,901	5,698	—	—	4272
{ Abbotshall	4,206	780	1,150	—	5,880	4,277	1,403	—	1603
{ Kirkaldy	5,034	1,600	2,350	—	3,800	4,404	4,200	—	1396
Hamilton	9,513	2,000	3,800	—	5,800	—	—	—	—
{ Old Monkland	9,650	1,385	—	—	7,745	9,035	3,440	1,290	—
{ New Monkland	9,867	3,350	3,010	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bothwell	5,500	1,150	1,600	2,750	2,546	1,600	—	—	204
Cambusnethan	3,824	660	1,800	2,460	1,770	1,252	—	—	690
Dalserf	2,784	500	60	560	1,289	892	729	—	—
Greenock	28,500	6,600	8,930	15,530	13,194	8,050	—	—	2336
{ Abbey par. Paisley	26,006	3,436	5,800	—	29,436	26,604	12,908	—	2832
{ Other parishes, ditto ..	31,460	9,800	10,400	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neilston	8,046	950	950	1,900	3,725	3,073	1,825	—	—
Kilbarchan	4,806	700	1,730	2,430	2,225	1,703	—	—	205
Lochwinnoch	4,515	1,050	700	1,750	2,090	1,207	340	—	—
Eastwood	6,834	750	1,415	2,165	3,173	2,677	1,008	—	—
Kilmarnock	18,093	4,160	5,530	9,690	8,376	6,486	—	—	1314
{ Ardrossan	3,600	1,000	500	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Stevenston	3,544	1,200	1,400	—	4,100	3,306	1,000	—	794
Loudon	3,959	700	1,100	1,800	1,833	1,279	33	—	—
{ Dunderdon	5,500	1,200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Irvine	5,200	2,300	2,650	—	6,150	4,954	1,550	—	1196
Jedburgh	5,650	950	2,700	3,650	2,616	1,925	—	—	1034
Lesmahagow	6,450	1,600	1,050	2,650	2,986	1,625	336	—	—
Beith	5,118	1,254	1,347	2,601	2,369	1,305	—	—	232
Totals	548,454	113,026	141,770	254,796	253,906	159,444	20,210	21,101	

One material cause of the above deficiency of 20,210, arises from the inadequacy of the accommodation in Roman Catholic churches, for the population holding that faith. In ascertaining the real deficiency, the following should be deducted, as arising from this circumstance.

Glasgow,	-	-	13,854
Old and New Monkland	-	-	1000
Neilston,	-	-	1000
Eastwood,	-	-	500

Together 16,354

Reducing the list of deficiencies to only 3,856.—On the other hand, the actual surplus in several instances, particularly in Dundee and Paisley, is diminished in appearance by this same cause. The few remaining deficiencies have been accounted for in the course of the preceding remarks.

From the foregoing statement it is apparent,

First., That in not one of the twenty-six places which have been fixed upon by the originators of the scheme we are considering, is there such extent of deficiency as to call for the interference of government, or indeed any deficiency at all, when the particular circumstances of each parish are taken into account.

Second., That taking the whole places together, in place of a deficiency of 159,444, as represented in the circular, there is a surplus above the legal amount of accommodation. The legal amount required for the whole, is 253,906

And there actually exists accommodation as follows:

1. In connection with the Establishment	113,026
2. Provided by Dissenters . . .	141,770
Together . . .	<u>254,796</u>

Surplus above legal accommodation 890

Third., That if the Roman Catholic population and accommodation be deducted, matters stand thus:

Gross population . . .	548,454
Deduct Roman Catholics, supposed at least . . .	<u>54,000</u>

Remains of Protestant population 494,454

Requiring accommodation to the amount of	229,839
But there is in the Establishment	113,026

Provided by Dissenters . . .	141,770
Deduct Roman Catholic chapels, not more than . . .	5,500

Remains provided by Protestant Dissenters . . .	136,270
Total Protestant accommodation . . .	<u>249,296</u>

Surplus in this view 19,457

Fourth., That in the places mentioned, the accommodation afforded is as follows:

Accommodation furnished by the Endowed churches	74,402
By Chapels of Ease . . .	38,624

By protestant Dissenters . . .	136,270
Total accommodation for protestants on the Voluntary principle . . .	<u>174,894</u>

Balance in favour of the Voluntary principle 100,492

When such have been the past results, the supply of any deficiency, although none has been proved to exist, may safely be left to be provided for on the Voluntary principle.

Fifth., It has also been seen, that in almost every one of the Established Churches, there are many sittings unlet or unoccupied. In the course of the preceding remarks, several instances of these have been pointed out. In many cases it is difficult to ascertain the extent of unoccupied accommodation; but there is enough known to justify the assertion, that no town or

place can be pointed out, in which those who wish to attend public worship in the Establishment, cannot procure the accommodation they need. These empty sittings cannot be disregarded; and independent of all other objections which exist to such grants, justice requires that no new church shall be erected out of the national funds, until, at least, all the Endowed Churches in the district where it is proposed, shall be filled, and there arise a demand for accommodation, which they are inadequate to supply.

But it is said, the prices demanded for sittings, exclude the poor. The first answer is, that this is denied. The cheap seats in the Edinburgh churches are the worst let; and the same thing, it is believed, will be found to be the case in other large towns; and in most of them, seats can be had from 2s. to 5s. per annum, in considerable numbers. In some instances, they are so low even as 6d. But, *secondly*, If it is for the poor that the grant is really asked,—then let the rich, who are able to build churches and provide ministers for themselves, do so,—and thus make room for the poor in the endowed churches. There is no reason why *they* should occupy the churches provided at the public expense, and at the same time raise the clamour that the *poor* cannot get admittance.

These remarks, we trust, sufficiently expose the groundless nature of the present application for new churches; and the fallacy of the statements by which it is supported; and they are equally applicable to the proposal for an endowment for the existing Chapels of Ease. If Dissenters, said by Churchmen to be a *minority* of the population, in the 26 towns and parishes specified in the circular of the Assembly's committee, support churches containing 141,770 sittings, surely Churchmen, who claim to be the *majority*, and unquestionably reckon in their number a greater proportion of the wealthy classes, than the Dissenters do, ought to be able, in the same places, to support their Chapels of Ease, containing sittings for 39,217, without levying an additional tax on Dissenters, which would be the practical effect of obtaining a grant from parliament for their endowment. But, in point of fact, the members of the Establishment have already shewn their ability, not only in hitherto supporting in a respectable manner, those which exist, but also in subscribing large sums for the erection and endowment of others.

In conclusion, we call not only on Dissenters of all denominations, but also on liberal Churchmen, to concur in counter petitions to parliament against the proposed grant. By misrepresentation of the actual state of the case, and particularly, by keeping out of view the extent of Dissenting accommodation, and by great diligence and exertion, the party who have embarked in the scheme, have already succeeded in getting up many petitions in support of it. The exposure which has been made in the preceding pages, should deprive of all weight petitions which have been procured in consequence of statements so erroneous and fallacious; but no time should be lost in counteracting the influence which they may have, so long as the truth is not known. It surely is not the time to increase the burdens on the public, and to extend the Establishment, when both the amount of the one, and the objections to the other are the subject of daily complaint and bitter contention.

APPENDIX.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE IS CONSTRUCTED ON THE PRINCIPLE, THAT ACCOMMODATION FOR TWO-FIFTHS, OR 40 PER CENT. OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION, IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE WHOLE, as explained at page 8, and shews the surplus accommodation existing in *sixteen* of the places referred to in the circular of the Assembly's Committee, and the deficiency in the other *nine* places. It, of course, assumes, that the legal quantity of accommodation for nearly 46 per cent. of the entire population, on which all the preceding tables and calculations are founded, is more than is actually necessary in any town or district, where a large proportion of the population belongs to the poorer classes.

	Population.	Necessary Accommodation, being 2-5ths of entire population.	Existing accommodation.	Actual Surplus accommodation.	The alleged deficiency of the Assembly's Circular.	Actual Deficiency — chiefly Catholic.
Glasgow { Protestant.....	160,000	64,000	75,736	11,736	{ 71140	11,650
{ Rom. Catholics	35,000	14,000	2,350	—	{ 3,727	1,318
Neilston, 2000 Rom. Cath.	8,046	3,218	1,900	—		
Old Monkland.....	9,650	{ 7,806	7,745	—	3,440	61
New Monkland.....	9,867				2,677	576
Eastwood.....	6,854	2,741	2,165	—		
Rutherglen.....	5,503	2,201	2,600	399	1,851	
Old Machar.....	25,170	{ 23,207	29,600	6,393	7,388	13,605
Other parishes of Aberdeen.	32,849					
Dundee	45,000	18,000	22,420	4,420	12,200	
Dunfermline	17,068	6,827	9,173	2,346	5,698	
Abbotshall	4,206	{ 3,696	5,880	2,184	1,403	
Kirkaldy.....	5,634					
Hamilton.....	9,513	3,805	5,800	1,995	4,200	
Bothwell.....	5,500	2,200	2,750	550	1,600	
Cambusnethan	3,824	1,529	2,460	931	1,252	
Greenock	28,500	11,400	15,530	4,130	8,050	
Paisley { Abbey Parish..	26,006	{ 22,986	29,436	6,450	12,908	
{ Other parishes	31,460					
Kilbarchan	4,806	1,922	2,430	508	1,703	
Kilmarnock	18,093	7,237	9,690	2,453	6,486	
Ardrossan.....	3,600	{ 2,858	4,100	1,242	1,000	
Stevenson.....	3,544					
Loudon.....	3,959	1,583	1,800	217	1,279	
Dundonald	5,500	{ 4,280	6,150	1,870	1,550	
Irvine.....	5,200					
Jedburgh	5,650	2,260	3,650	1,390	1,925	
Lesmahago	6,450	2,580	2,650	70	1,625	
Beith	5,118	2,047	2,601	554	1,305	
Kirkintilloch	5,888	2,355	2,320	—	2,244	35
Kilsyth.....	4,297	1,718	1,600	—	1,318	118
Dalserf.....	2,784	1,113	560	—		553
Lochwinnoch	4,515	1,806	1,750	—	1,207	56
Totals	548,454	219,381	254,796	49,782	159,441	762

Alleged Deficiency	- - -	- - -	- - -	159,444
Actual Surplus	- - -	- - -	49,782	
Less Deficiency for Protestants	- -	-	762	
Ditto ditto for Roman Catholics	- -	13,367		
			14,129	
REAL SURPLUS of Church Accommodation				35,653